M151

AF

-BOKASSA BETRAYATH

BANGUI, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (AP) -- WESTERN DIPLOMATS HERE SPECULATED ON MONDAY THAT THE FRENCH PLAY IN THE THE TOPPLING OF THE REGIME OF FORMER EMPEROR BOKASSA I RESULTED FROM THE HEATING UP FRENCH-SPEAKING AFRICAN STATES HAVE OVER SOVIET ACTIVITIES WITH MARXIST LIBYA.

THE SELF-STYLED MONARCH OF WHAT HE EMPIRE HAD CONVERTED TO ISLAM TO ATTRACT LIBYAN FINANCIAL AID. THE DIPLOMATS SAID, MORE RECENTLY, BOKASSA MILITARY BASE IN THE NORTH OF THE COUN CURRENCY TO PROP UP HIS TEETERING REGI

##A LOT OF FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES TH LOCATION,## SAID ONE ENVOY, WHO REQUESTED ANONYMITY. ##BUT, BELIEVE THE CENTRAL AFRICAN URANIUM DEPOSITS, BUT BECAUSE ITS BORDERS AR CLOSE TO THEIRS AND THEY ARE AFRAID OF THE RUSSIANS.##

##TO THEM, THE LIBYANS MEAN THE RUSSIANS,## HE SAID. DIPLOMATS SAID BOKASSA##S PREVIOUS FORAYS TO LIBYA RESULTED IN ONLY A PATRICKLE## OF AID, BUT WESTERN COUNTRIES WITHDREW FINANCIAL BACKING AFTER REPORTS OF A MASSACRE OF SCHOOL CHILDREN HERE IN APRIL. BOKASSA, UNABLE TO MEET THE SALARIES OF CIVIL SERVANTS AND ARMY PERSONNEL, AGAIN APPROACHED LIBYA.

BOKASSA WAS IN THE LIBYAN CAPITAL OF TRIPO LATE THURSDAY WHEN HIS REGIME WAS OVERTHROWN BY PRESIDENT DAVID DACKO, WHO FLEW IN TO BANGUI AIRPORT ##AT THE HEAD## OF 400 TO 500 FRENCH PARATROOPERS FROM FRENCH BASES IN NEIGHBORING STATES. HE RENAMED THE COUNTRY THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC.

DACKO, WHO WAS OVERTHROWN BY BOKASSA IN 1965, REPORTEDLY SAID SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES KNEW OF PLANS FOR THE COUP LONG IN ADVANCE.

##SOME COUNTRIES MAKE APPEALS TO THE CUBANS## WHY CAN#T WE MAKE APPEALS FOR FRENCH TROOPS SINCE THAT COUNTRY HAS BEEN OUR FRIEND FOR A LONG TIME?## DACKO WAS QUOTED AS SAYING AFTER THE COUP.

HE ALSO REPORTEDLY TOLD REPORTERS HERE HE HAD RECENTLY BEEN IN NDJAMENA, CHAD, WHERE HE DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES. CHAD ALSO HAD BEEN A FRENCH COLONY.

DIPLOMATS HERE SAID A MILITARY BASE IN NORTHERN TERRITORIES OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC WOULD HAVE RECORDED LIBYA WITH ITS SOUTHERNMOST OUTPOST AND PLACED ITS TROOPS ON THE SOUTHERN BORDER WITH CHAD. LIBYA HAS SUPPORTED DISSIDENT MOSLEM FACTIONS IN CHAD.

OVER THE WEEKEND DACKO ALSO ANNOUNCED THE CAPTURE OF 37 ARMED LIBYANS IN BANGUI AND THE DISCOVERY OF SEVERAL ARMS CACHES.

FRENCH SOLDIERS WERE SEEN HERE SATURDAY UNLOADING A HELICOPTER FILLED WITH SOVIET-TYPE ASSAULT RIFLES. PILOTS, WHO SAID THEY HAD FLOWN IN FROM CHAD, TOLD REPORTERS THE GUNS WERE FOUND AT BOKASSAS JUNGLE RETREAT, ABOUT 60 MILES FROM THE CAPITAL.

AP-WX-0924 1905EDT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/GDC/MR
RELEASED BY CENTRAL ARCHIVES
RDS ☐ OADS ☐ EXT. DATE
ASSIGNED OFFICE(S) LIBYA H
ENDORSE EXISTING MARK(S)
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☐
RELEASE DENIED ☐
EA or FOI EXEMPTIONS TEGIC